

With Sir Jas. Norcliffe's Compts

PROCEEDINGS of a Meeting of DEPUTIES appointed by the several petitioning or associated BODIES herein-after mentioned.

THE Counties of *York, Surry, Hertford, Huntingdon, Middlesex, Essex, Kent, Devon, and Nottingham*, and the City of *Westminster*, held on the Third Day of March, and by different Adjournments on the 10th, 17th, 19th, 24th and 31st Days of March, and the 7th and 21st Days of April 1781.

It was resolved unanimously, That the Rev. Mr. *Wyvill* be Chairman of this Meeting.

Resolved unanimously, That the Votes of this Assembly be taken by Deputations.

Resolved unanimously, That Application be made to Parliament during the present Sessions, for correcting the gross Abuses in the Expenditure of public Money, and for reducing the increased and increasing Influence of the Crown, which ought to be diminished.

Resolved unanimously, That a Petition to the House of Commons will be the proper Mode of applying to Parliament for correcting the gross Abuses in the Expenditure of public Money, and for reducing the increased and increasing Influence of the Crown.

Resolved unanimously, That a Committee be appointed to form and report to this Meeting a Petition, equivalent in its Prayer to the several Petitions of the People presented to the House of Commons in the last Session of Parliament.

Resolved unanimously, That the Committee consist of One Member from each Deputation, to be chosen by the respective Deputations; and a Committee was appointed accordingly.

Resolved unanimously, That the Chairman be requested to communicate to the Chairmen of the Committees of the several petitioning Counties, Cities, and Boroughs, in this Kingdom, the Proceedings of this Meeting.

A Petition to Parliament having been reported by the Committee, and read to this Meeting in the following Words—it was resolved unanimously, That the Petition which has now been read, be approved by this Meeting.

To the Honourable the COMMONS of GREAT BRITAIN in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the several Persons whose Names are hereunto subscribed, Freeholders of the respective Counties of *York, Surry, Hertford, Huntingdon, Middlesex, Essex, Kent, Devon, and Nottingham*, and the Electors of the City of *Westminster*,

S H E W E T H,

THAT this Nation hath been engaged for several Years in a most expensive and unfortunate War; that many of our valuable Colonies, having actually declared themselves Independent, have formed a strict Confederacy with the ancient Enemies of Great Britain; that the Consequences of these combined Misfortunes have been a large Addition to the national Debt, an heavy Accumulation of Taxes, a rapid Decline of the Trade, Manufactures, and Land Rents of the Kingdom:

That notwithstanding this calamitous and impoverished State of the Nation, much public Money has been improvidently squandered, and that many Individuals enjoy Sinecure Places, efficient Places with exorbitant Emoluments and Pensions, unmerited by public Services, to a large and still increasing Amount; whence the Crown has acquired a great and unconstitutional Influence, which, if not checked, may soon prove fatal to the Liberties of this Country.

And your Petitioners farther shew, That your Petitioners, jointly with other Freeholders of several Counties and Electors of several Cities and Towns in this Kingdom, did, in the last Session of the late Parliament, present to the Honourable House of Commons humble Petitions, requesting that some Remedy might be provided by the Wisdom of Parliament, against the extensive and unconstitutional Influence of the Crown, and that some Stop might be put to the lavish Expenditure of public Money.

And your Petitioners beg leave to state, that the Matter contained in the Petitions so presented by your Petitioners and others, was taken into Consideration by that Honourable House, and on due and mature Deliberation, that Honourable House resolved,

I. That it is necessary to declare, that the Influence of the Crown has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished.

II. That it is competent to this House to examine into, and to correct, Abuses in the Expenditure of the Civil List Revenues, as well as in every other Branch of public Revenue, whenever it shall appear expedient to the Wisdom of this House so to do.

III. That it is the Duty of this House to provide, as far may be, an immediate and effectual Redress of the Abuses complained of in the Petitions presented to this House from the different Counties, Cities, and Towns, in this Kingdom.

And your Petitioners beg Leave farther to state, that before that Honourable House had effected that Diminution of the Influence of the Crown, and had provided an effectual Redress of the Grievances complained of in the said Petitions, the said Parliament of Great Britain was by his Majesty's Royal Proclamation dissolved.

Your Petitioners, therefore, on behalf of themselves and others their Fellow Subjects, who joined with your Petitioners in the said Petitions, appealing to the Justice of this Honourable House, do most earnestly request, both for the Relief of the Subject and the Safety of the Constitution, that this Honourable House will proceed to enquire, by what Means that Diminution of the Influence of the Crown may be obtained, which the last House of Commons declared

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to be necessary ; and that this Honourable House will proceed to examine into all the Branches of the Expenditure of the public Money ; and also to enquire, what Expences can be retrenched by an Abolition of Sinecures or unnecessary Places, by a Reformation in respect of Pensions, unmerited by public Services, and by a Reduction of the exorbitant Emoluments of Office, and that the Produce be appropriated to the Necessities of the State, in such Manner as to the Wisdom of Parliament shall seem meet, and your Petitioners shall ever pray.

The said Petition was signed by the following Persons, viz.

JAMES TOWNSEND,	Freeholders of the County of Middlesex.
ROBERT BROMLEY,	
GEORGE BELLAS,	Freeholders of the County of Surry.
F. VINCENT,	
JOHN S. BUDGEN,	Freeholders of the County of Huntingdon.
JOHN NICHOLLS,	
JAMES TRECOTHICK,	Freeholders of the County of York.
R. JAMES LAWRENCE,	
JOHN JEBB,	Freeholders of the County of Hertford.
JAMES PHIPPS,	
C. WYVIL,	Electors of Westminster.
SAMUEL SHORE,	
JAMES NORCLIFFE,	Freeholders of the County of Essex.
G. JENNINGS,	
W. BAKER,	Freeholders of the County of Devon.
C. J. FOX,	
R. FITZPATRICK,	Freeholders of the County of Kent.
JOHN BRETT,	
J. BURGOYNE,	Freeholder of the County of Nottingham.
R. B. SHERIDAN,	
JOHN CHURCHILL,	
ROBERT SMYTH,	
R. M. T. CHISWELL,	
RICHARD BAKER,	
T. BRAND HOLLIS,	
J. REDMAN,	
J. CHICHESTER,	
JAMES HAMLYN,	
MAHON,	
RICHARD RYCROFT,	
EDMUND MARSHALL,	
EDWARD BENTINCK,	

Resolved unanimously, That the Chairman, Sir F. Vincent, and Sir R. Smyth, be deputed from this Meeting to wait on Sir George Saville, to request him to present the Petition to the House of Commons.

Resolved unanimously, That the Chairman, Sir F. Vincent, and Sir R. Smyth, be deputed to wait on Mr. Dunning, to request him to second Sir George Saville.

Resolved, That the parliamentary Representation of this Kingdom is extremely inadequate.

Resolved, That the extensive public Evils have been produced by the gross Inadequacy in the Representation of the People in Parliament.

Resolved, That the Addition of at least One Hundred Members to the House of Commons, to be chosen, in a due Proportion, in the different Counties of the Kingdom of Great Britain, would be a Measure tending strongly to correct that gross Inadequacy, and the extensive public Evils arising from it.

Resolved, That the Bill enacting the Septennial Duration of Parliament (however expedient it might have been rendered by the Circumstances of the Times) was a Violation of the Rights of the People ; by which the constitutional Connection between the constituent Body, and their Representatives has been impaired, and Parliament has been exposed to great and unconstitutional Influence.

Resolved, That when by the peaceful and legal Efforts of the People, a more frugal Management of the public Purse, and a more adequate Representation in Parliament shall have been obtained, the Repeal of the Septennial Bill would form a strong Barrier against the Inroads of parliamentary Corruption, and the alarming Influence of the Crown.

N. B. The several Resolutions respecting the Representation of the People, and the Shortening the Duration of Parliaments, were objected to on the Ground of the Expediency of advancing these Propositions at this Time ; and the previous Question being proposed on each Motion for those Resolutions, the said previous Question passed in the Negative.

Resolved unanimously, That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the Rev. Mr. Wyvil, the Chairman of this Meeting.

Resolved, That One Thousand Copies of the Resolutions of this Meeting be printed in the Manner they were printed last Year.

Resolved, That this Meeting be dissolved, and that the Resolutions thereof be communicated to the respective Committees.

C. W Y V I L, Chairman.